

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 SAM-01 DRC-01 /127 W

----- 106202

R 201621Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6570

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMEMBASSY LISBON

INFO AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

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EO 11652: DECON 2/20/75

TAGS: PFOR LE SF PO

SUBJ: LEBANESE DECISION TO BREAK RELATIONS WITH SOUTH AFRICA AND
PORTUGAL

REF: CAPE TOWN 122

1. GOL PRESIDENCY OFF CONFIRMED TO CHARGE FEB 2; THAT GOL
HAS INDEED TAKEN DECISION TO SEVER DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH BOTH
SOUTH AFRICA AND PORTUGAL. DECISION NOTED BY MINISTER EDUCATION
IN PRESS CONF FEB 19.

2. COMMENT: IN RESPONSE TO CHARGE'S QUERY RE REASONS FOR ABOVE
DECISION AND ITS TIMING, PRESIDENCY OFFICIAL STATED THAT GOL HAS FOR
SOME TIME BEEN SUBJECTED TO CONSIDERABLE PRESSURE FROM DOMESTIC
QUARTERS (I.E., PAN-ARAB-LEANING MOSLEM CIRCLES) AND FROM OTHER
ARAB GOVTS TO KEEP IN STEP WITH DECISIONS CONCERNING RELATIONS WITH
SOUTH AFRICA AND PORTUGAL TAKEN AT LAST NOVEMBER'S ARAB SUMMIT
CONF AT ALGIERS. HE SAID GOL HAD RESISTED THESE PRESSURES

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AS LONG AS IT POSSIBLY COULD, BUT THAT PROSPECT OF HAVING TO FACE
STRONG ARAB CRITICISM AT UPCOMING ISLAMIC CONF IN

LAHORE HAD FINALLY BROUGHT MATTERS TO POINT WHERE GOL COULD NO
LONGER HOLD OFF. HE AGREED DECISION IS REGRETTABLE, BUT SAID
LEBANON'S NEED TO BE AT ONE WITH ITS ARAB NEIGHBORS TOOK
PRECEDENCE OVER ITS DIPLOMATIC TIES WITH GOP AND SAG.
HOUGHTON

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Disposition Authority: morefirh
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